

## LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

## DANCING AT THE UNIVERSITY.

[Special Cor. STATE CHRONICLE.]

SUMMERVILLE, N. C., April 7, 1890. — "The practical vs. tinkling cymbals" in your last issue is in good time, to the point, and will meet the approval of thinking men. While the change proposed involves the abolition of the time honored annual address, it will bring our young men to the front, and the meetings of the Alumni Association of the University will be, as you indicate, "a time for considering and maturing wise measures," etc.

The Wilmington Messenger of March 20, referring to "Liberal giving in the South," as illustrated by the munificence of some of our men of wealth, "who are the friends of the University of North Carolina who are abundantly able to help most liberally." \*\*\*\*\* Why they do not rally to its support is beyond us? Why they should not feel as generously inclined towards this admirable university as the friends of the denominational colleges feel towards their cherished institutions is just what we cannot explain. The Messenger loses sight of the fact that these men, friends of the University it is true, and of abundant ability, almost without exception, are members of some church, and consequently more strongly attached to their cherished institutions than to the University, the pride and ornament of the State. Our denominational colleges show what the churches can do in building up and sustaining separate institutions of their own—and what unitedly they would and could do for the University if in full harmony and sympathy with the popular sentiment of the State. It is wise to face the facts, repulsive or otherwise, to strengthen the stronghold, to find out the weak places and expose all hinderances of progress and success.

The change proposed in the CHRONICLE is an improvement on the Wednesday morning exercises of commencement week, it is a change of a good custom for a better. The abolition of the closing exercises on Thursday night has been urged for years. A change is suggested—a change from a BAD THING, to a Christian Association. This change, it was hoped and believed by many, was in the near future. The fact that the gymnasium was to be under the care and control of the Y. M. C. A., published in most of the newspapers of the State, secular and religious, was construed as a concession to the moral and religious sentiment of the people, touching the character of the modern dance indulged in at Chapel Hill and elsewhere, and the consequent abandonment of "Commencement ball." We are now informed that the "managers allow the University the use of it (the gymnasium) most of the year, but refuse to give the use of it during commencement week."

Is the line between virtue and vice, religion and irreligion, to be entirely obliterated? We would emphasize the distinction between sectarianism and religion. The former should be rigidly excluded, the latter, in some positive form, should be an essential part of instruction. Reverence for God and the teachings of His Word, the State will insist upon as the basis of sound morality and good government. The Young Men's Christian Association, with a fair showing, will supplement whatever may be lacking in this respect at the University. Will the friends of education, morality and religion have a fair opportunity of seeing and learning what has been accomplished by the Association commencement week? Not, surely, at the usual place of meeting. This is "refused" and on this occasion will be used as heretofore—for the perpetuation of a moral irritant at Chapel Hill, condemned by all Protestant churches, and the Romish as well, and ALL ALIKE unite in warning their people of the moral turpitude of the modern dance and its legitimate and necessary evils. Take the membership of the churches from the population of the State, add to the residue all such professors of religion as do not respect the teachings of their respective churches in the premises, and admit that all outsiders harmonize with them, and not one in a score will be found that would endorse, perpetuate and foster at the State University that with which two-thirds of the students will have nothing to do—a most potential and influential part of the faculty repudiates, THAT which is so offensive in itself, so repugnant to the good judgment and consciences of so many of our people, and brings no good to any, old or young. When the trial comes, as come it must, our people will abide by the deliverances of their respective churches. They will stand by their children and the University, the common heritage of all.

N. McKay, (A trustee of the University.)

## PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

Senator Stanford has resigned the presidency of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He desires to have more time to devote to the Leland Stanford, Jr., University which he has established in memory of his son. It is also stated that he has his eye on the presidency.

Hon. Abram S. Hewitt and party, from New York, visited Murphy on Saturday and examined the marble, talc and iron in which that section abounds.

Walter H. Neal, Esq., of Laurinburg, will deliver the memorial address at Fayetteville this year.

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